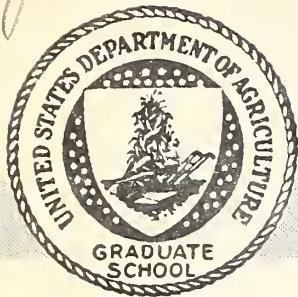


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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

November 28, 1951

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

More emphasis on understanding human relations

was a theme threading many sessions at the annual Land-Grant College meeting in Houston, Texas, the week of November 12. Many speakers stressed the obligation to see that technically trained students get a better background on this score than their predecessors have received. This was pointed up in a provocative discussion of whether, and if so how, graduate work should aim to educate the whole man. One of the panel participants (Deans Howe of Kansas, Bunker of MIT, Dennes of California, and Knudsen of Southern California) suggested the need for appropriate devices to disclose and remedy gaps in the candidate's background in this respect just as in Ph.D. candidates gaps in knowledge of languages are now measured...and rectified in required courses. He labeled this need as a great deal more important than the language requirement. MIT has sought for several years to meet the problem through voluntary seminars for engineering graduates. And, Dean Bunker reported, as this emphasis has gotten back to the colleges, the result has been that men have come with increasingly better backgrounds.

I was also much stimulated by the talk given by Harlan Hatcher, President of the University of Michigan, urging a return to education per se. He decried an enveloping emphasis on research, and he warned fellow educators and administrators to be a little leery of doing too much for the community. He believes the communities would do better to learn to do for themselves and the university should concentrate on its main job-- education and development of leaders.

The Council on Graduate Work recommended and the Association decided, as regards the cooperative (Land-grant:USDA) research intern program, to propose to the Secretary of Agriculture, that we: (1) develop and strengthen the program; (2) select candidates by March; (3) have definite openings rather than wait to see what the new fiscal year's budget will permit; (4) set up internships on campuses as well as in USDA laboratories; (5) explore the need for internships in basic as well as applied research; (6) add one or two men from the colleges to the GS committee; and (7) plan for the chairman of the student's graduate committee to visit the work in progress.

How can operations research

be used more effectively in government? What are the implications for GS in training (1) administrators to make wider use of the new tool, and (2) scientists to serve on operations research teams?

The technique, as many of you know, was devised by the British military during World War II to provide administrators with rapid answers to urgent problems. It is conducted by teams of scientists who analyze readily available data on their experience with similar problems. It appears to hold unusual promise for well-staffed research agencies. Charles W. Motley, who has helped make the technique a worthwhile tool in Air Force administration, tells us that scientists in all fields have contributed to AF operations research. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, recently pointed out how well biologists worked on teams of this kind during the war. Their experience in dealing with great masses of unspecified data equipped them to solve some of the diffuse problems submitted for operational analysis.

Following a recent meeting at which Dr. Motley told GS department heads of AF experiences with the technique, I asked Patterson French (Public Administration) to head a committee on operations research. Other members are: Charles M. Mottley (Defense), F.J. Sette (Defense), Ralph R. Shaw (USDA), Henry Stevens (USDA), Harry C. Trelogan (USDA) and W.J. Youden (Commerce).

Extended leave for study

was granted to 95 extension workers in 15 States and Hawaii during the school year. Cannon C. Hearne tells me the largest number of workers (24) were on leave in Ohio. Next largest group (20) came from Montana. Six of the 95 men and women were working toward Ph.D. degrees, 48 toward masters. The remainder were doing non-degree work.

The current national 4-H fellows--Elaine Sckucius, home agent from Nebraska, and Merle Lee Howes, assistant county agent from Maryland--are enrolled for GS courses. Elaine is also taking graduate work at GW and Merle is in University of Maryland.

Like other researchers

we have followed with keen interest the development of new techniques to speed up the transmission of information from library shelves to readers. We were pleased to note--in a recent issue of the Library of Congress INFORMATION BULLETIN--that a number of devices appear promising for this purpose. Among those under consideration for at-the-shelf reproduction are the Polaroid Land camera, and certain ink-spray and "smoke" reproduction techniques.

Students in the seminar

held in connection with the lecture-series, "Agricultural Policy in the Defense Period," are getting a clear and quite detailed picture of how leaders in agriculture view the major issues. Phil Aylesworth, who with W.W. Wilcox teaches the course, tells me the first four speakers in the lecture series--Allan Kline, Jim Patton, Hershel Newsom, and Congressman Hope--met with the seminar after the lectures, answered questions with refreshing frankness, and were explicit in their stand on each issue.

As you would expect, the round-table off-the-record sessions have pointed up the wide differences of opinions held by these leaders, particularly on price supports and the size of carry-over stocks of agricultural commodities. There was complete agreement on the problem of under-employment on farms in marginal areas and the same general approach to its solution. In brief, the speakers have favored active assistance in re-training farm people for other occupations, the establishment of new industries in the area where possible, and loans and supervision that will assist the families who remain on the farms to widen their base of operation into economic units.

GS writers in print recently include:

R.Y. Winters, chairman of the committee on internship cooperation, whose report on the cooperative research intern program in agriculture appears in the Oct. 15 issue of HIGHER EDUCATION, the semi-monthly publication of the Office of Education. "The program," he explains, "is designed not so much to recruit workers for USDA as to give men and women who will be conducting research at the State experiment stations and colleges a better understanding of USDA's objectives and organization. This leads, in the long run, to more effective cooperation and improved research programs both locally and nationally."

Max J. Wasserman (Social Sciences) whose article, "United States Import Financing Methods" has been reprinted from the September issue of JOURNAL OF FINANCE. This is a report on a survey made for ECA to ascertain methods currently used in financing the import trade and to sample opinion on the adequacy of these methods. The findings show that while the dollar is the leading international standard, American foreign trade financing market lacks the breadth, depth, and flexibility of the London market of pre-World War II days.

Activities of rural people

in adult education other than technical agriculture are being surveyed by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The Ford Foundation put up the money and Charles P. Loomis, director of the Social Research Service, Michigan State, is making the study. Emphasis is on the social sciences, citizenship, the humanities, and improvements in family living.

AMONG OURSELVES

Hugh H. Bennett (General Administration Board) resigned as chief of Soil Conservation Service this month to become an assistant to Secretary Brannan.

Albert H. Moseman (GS Council) assumed the post of chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Nov. 13, succeeding Robert M. Salter, who in turn succeeded Dr. Bennett as chief of SCS.

Cannon C. Hearne (Social Sciences) has replaced Douglas Ensminger as head of the Division of Extension Education and Training, OFAR. Dr. Hearne came to the Department from the University of Missouri where he served on the Extension staff for 25 years.

Gordon Bowles (Social Sciences) writes from Tokyo for suggestions on reference material he can use in teaching a course on American studies. This course is in addition to two courses and a seminar he is offering in anthropology at the University of Tokyo.

James Scammahorn, who did a splendid job as chairman of the committee on procurement and property management (Public Administration) in revamping and expanding the GS courses in this field, has left USDA for the Atomic Energy Commission. J.B. Holden, Chief, Procurement and Property Management Division of Budget and Finance, is taking over Mr. Scammahorn's committee work and teaching in the Graduate School.

Harold Christie (Languages and Literature) is leaving for Ecuador about the first of December to begin a 2-year assignment for OFAR.

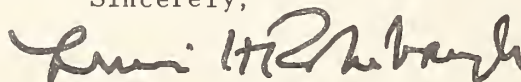
H. Duncan Hall (Social Sciences) participated in the first regular discussion dinner of the Institute on World Organization, Nov. 8. The subject was "Dangers Confronting the United Nations."

Certified Statement of Accomplishment in Administrative Procedure have recently been issued to Robert I. Malone, Raymond R. Myers, Edward F. Kane, James Deegan, and Gladys Batten. Capt. Leonard L. Whitehead was issued a Certified Statement of Accomplishment in Accounting.

R. L. Lovvorn (Biological Sciences) is a member of the editorial board and in charge of circulation for WEEDS, a new journal published by the Association of Regional Weed Control Conferences. Vol. I, No. 1 came off the press in October.

Our good wishes to Caroline Sherman, who retired Oct. 31 from BAE. We are indebted to her for many excellent suggestions on GS information and editorial policies and for able service on the Committee on Publications.

Sincerely,



Director

